

Jonathan O. Peña, Esq.  
CA Bar ID No.: 278044  
Peña & Bromberg, PLC  
2440 Tulare St., Ste. 320  
Fresno, CA 93721  
Telephone: 559-439-9700  
Facsimile: 559-439-9723  
Email: info@jonathanpena.com  
Attorney for Plaintiff, Saul James Morales

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
FRESNO DIVISION**

Saul James Morales,

Plaintiff,

v.

Kilolo Kijakazi, Acting  
Commissioner of Social Security,

Defendant.

Case No. 1:21-cv-01493-GSA

**STIPULATION FOR THE AWARD  
AND PAYMENT OF ATTORNEY  
FEES AND EXPENSES PURSUANT  
TO THE EQUAL ACCESS TO  
JUSTICE ACT; ORDER**

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED by and between the parties through their undersigned counsel, subject to the approval of the Court, that Plaintiff be awarded attorney fees and expenses in the amount of FIVE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS AND 00/100 (\$5,500.00) under the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA), 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d), and costs in the amount of ZERO dollars (\$0.00) under 28 U.S.C. §1920. This amount represents compensation for all legal services rendered on behalf of Plaintiff by counsel in connection with this civil action, in accordance with 28 U.S.C. §§ 1920, 2412(d).

1 After the Court issues an order for EAJA fees to Plaintiff, the government will  
2 consider the matter of Plaintiff's assignment of EAJA fees to counsel. Pursuant to  
3 *Astrue v. Ratliff*, 560 U.S. 586, 598, 130 S.Ct. 2521, 177 L.Ed.2d 91 (2010), the ability  
4 to honor the assignment will depend on whether the fees are subject to any offset  
5 allowed under the United States Department of the Treasury's Offset Program. After  
6 the order for EAJA fees is entered, the government will determine whether they are  
7 subject to any offset.

8 Fees shall be made payable to Plaintiff, but if the Department of the Treasury  
9 determines that Plaintiff does not owe a federal debt, then the government shall cause  
10 the payment of fees, expenses and costs to be made directly to Counsel, pursuant to  
11 the assignment executed by Plaintiff. Any payments made shall be delivered and  
12 made payable to Plaintiff's counsel, Jonathan O. Peña.

13 This stipulation constitutes a compromise settlement of Plaintiff's request for  
14 EAJA attorney fees, and does not constitute an admission of liability on the part of  
15 Defendant under the EAJA or otherwise. Payment of the agreed amount shall  
16 constitute a complete release from, and bar to, any and all claims that Plaintiff and/or  
17 Counsel including Counsel's firm may have relating to EAJA attorney fees in  
18 connection with this action.

19 This award is without prejudice to the rights of Counsel and/or Counsel's firm  
20 to seek Social Security Act attorney fees under 42 U.S.C. § 406(b), subject to the  
21 savings clause provisions of the EAJA.

22 Respectfully submitted,

23  
24 Dated: March 14, 2023

25 /s/ Jonathan O. Peña  
26 JONATHAN O. PEÑA  
27 Attorney for Plaintiff

28 Dated: March 14, 2023

PHILLIP A. TALBERT

United States Attorney  
MATHEW W. PILE  
Associate General Counsel  
Office of Program Litigation  
Social Security Administration

By: \* Elizabeth Kathleen Yates Landgraf  
Elizabeth Kathleen Yates Landgraf  
Special Assistant U.S. Attorney  
Attorneys for Defendant  
(\*Permission to use electronic signature  
obtained via email on March 14, 2023).

**ORDER**

Based upon the parties' Stipulation for the Award and Payment of Equal Access to Justice Act Fees and Expenses (the "Stipulation"),

**IT IS ORDERED** that fees and expenses in the amount of FIVE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS AND 00/100 (\$5,500.00) as authorized by the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA), 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d), and costs in the amount of ZERO dollars (\$0.00) under 28 U.S.C. §1920, be awarded subject to the terms of the Stipulation.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: March 15, 2023

/s/ Gary S. Austin  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE